



Rocket Express

September 19, 2017

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 8/15/17 and the regular meeting on 8/15/17 were approved.

The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were approved.

The financial and treasurer reports and bills were approved.

Board Recognition:

The following students of the month were recognized by the Board:

Charlotte Ream
Kaitlyn King
Gabriel Latuch
Nolan Croushore
Makayla Morocco
Kaylie Miller

Public Comment:

Meghan Gould addressed the Board regarding a concern in the transportation arrangements for her children. A van will pick up her children in the morning and transport them to the bus stop, where they will board the bus and be transported to school. In the evening, a van will be waiting at the bus stop to transport her children to her home, which is approximately 1.1 miles from the stop. She would like the van to take her children the entire way to school and bring them home in the evening. Upon discussion by Board members, her request was denied and the current arrangements will remain in effect.

Old Business:

The Board approved the second and final reading of the following revisions to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

203 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
204 Attendance

The final transportation rates and routes for the 2017-2018 school year were approved.

New Business:

The Board voted in favor to waive Board policy and accept a 15-year-old foreign exchange student from Germany.

The Board voted in favor to authorize the administration to work with the Borough of Rockwood on their request to obtain a parcel of land adjacent to the existing water tank and bring recommendations back to the Board for consideration at a later meeting.

The Board approved a tuition waiver for an employee's child to attend the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board approved the annual senior trip to New York City on May 26, 2018 through May 27, 2018.

The Board approved the following PSBA officers:

President Elect	David Hutchison
Vice President	Gary Michael Smedley
Treasurer	Mike Gossert
Central at Large	Clythera Hornung
Western at Large	Daniel O'Keefe
PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees	Marianne L. Neel

The Board approved the chorus festival of events for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Board approved the band festival of events for the 2017-2018 school year.

The community based instruction program for the 2017-2018 school year was approved.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District volunteer agreement form.

The Board approved homebound instruction for an 11th grade student.

The Board voted in favor to add the following individuals to the district bus and van driver list pending completion of all paperwork:

Elisa Pyle
Teresa Hearn

The Board approved the speech schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved James Lytle as a full time custodian for the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jason Breegle as the bona-fide volunteer boys' junior varsity basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jack Bluebaugh as the bona-fide volunteer assistant girls' junior high soccer coach.

The Board approved Heather Kush as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer for after school club activities and Saturday activities.

The Board voted in favor to add Kimberly Oliver to the substitute instructional aide list, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved a medical leave for Elyse Cordaro from 1/3/18 through the remainder of the school year.

The Board voted in favor to table the discussion and possible action on a superintendent contract until after an executive session.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Code Organization – Richland, Pa. – 10/24/17 – Ben Baker and Jenna Sembower
2. Lego Mindstorms – Altoona, Pa. – 11/28/17 – Ben Baker and Jenna Sembower
3. SAP Training – St. Vincent College – 9/26/17, 9/27/17, and 9/28/17 – Brandi Shaulis
4. Counseling Network – Johnstown, Pa. – 10/18/17 – Brandi Shaulis
5. Autism Consortium – Johnstown, Ebensburg, Duncansville – 9/21/17, 10/30/17, 1/11/18, and 3/5/18 – Ashley Moyer and Cassie Ohler
6. AS/ES Training – Johnstown, Pa. – 1/31/18 – Cassie Ohler and Ashley Moyer
7. Allegheny IU Social Studies Symposium – Homestead, Pa. – 10/19/17 – Jay Best
8. LSS/MDS Networking Consortium – Johnstown, Pa. – 10/6/17 – Dana Weimer and Melissa Putman
9. PHEAA Workshop – Johnstown, Pa. – 9/22/17 – Patti Jo Opfar
10. ACCESS Training – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 10/30/17 – Amanda Custer

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Deer Valley YMCA – Mt. Davis – May 2018 – Josh Bowlin, Tammy Minnick, and 47 students
2. Pittsburgh Zoo – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 5/21/18 – Sue Slope, Jaime Gross, and 45 students
3. Deer Valley YMCA – Mt. Davis – May 2018 – Carter Bower, Faith Hemminger, and 50 students
4. Mountain Playhouse, Incline Plane – Jennerstown, Johnstown, Pa. – May 2018 – Denise Miller, Melissa Gindlesperger, and 52 students
5. Old Bedford Village – Bedford, Pa. – May 2018 – Shanna Wilson, Mindy Sarver, and 44 students
6. Carnegie Science Center – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 4/25/18 – Jenna Sembower, Becky McKinley, Jessica Knepper, and 60 students
7. Washington D.C. Trip – 5/17/18 – Ben Baker, Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau, and 66 students
8. The Nutcracker, Benedum Center – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 12/8/17 – Doug Spiri and 76 students
9. The Hayloft, Kindergarten Graduation – Rockwood, Pa. – Next to the last day of school – Josh Bowlin, Tammy Minnick, and 47 students
10. Fall Reading Competition – Bellwood Antis HS – 11/15/17 – Jenna Wintersteen, Christy Hay, and 30 to 50 students
11. Spring Reading Competition – Forest Hills HS – 4/1/18 – Jenna Wintersteen, Christy Hay, and 30 to 50 students
12. Scrabble Tournament – Somerset, Pa. – May 2018 – Janet Dotson, Beth Miller, and 14 students
13. National School Highlights Training – Somerset, Pa. – 9/15/17 – Nicole Hetrick and 2 students

14. Spanish Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 2018 – Andrea Minor and 48 students
15. French Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 2018 – Greta Carroll and 48 students
16. Pirates Game Incentive Trip – Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 2018 – Andrea Minor, Greta Carroll, and 48 students
17. SADD Red Ribbon Rally – Somerset, Pa. – 10/13/17 – Misty Demchak and 5 students
18. SADD/TATU Local Conference – Somerset, Pa. – 3/22/18 – Alana Letizia and 5 students
19. SADD State Conference – Seven Springs Resort – 11/8/17 – Alana Letizia and 4 students
20. NHS Special Olympics – Seven Springs Resort – 1/29/18, 1/30/18 – Kristen Kuzemchak and 19 students
21. Honor Society Caroling Trip – Meyersdale, Pa. – 12/15/17 – Andrea Minor, Greta Carroll, and 30 students
22. Biking Field Trip – Rockwood, Pa. – 10/11/17, 10/13/17, 10/17/17, 10/20/17 – Kristen Kuzemchak and 30 students
23. UPJ Model United Nations – Johnstown, Pa. – 10/16/17 – James Wagner and 30 students
24. Clara Barton Forum – Johnstown, Pa. – 11/1/17 – Kristen Kuzemchak and 1 to 6 students
25. SCTC Career Expo – Somerset, Pa. – 10/18/17 – Patti Jo Opfar and 60 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. 6th Grade Christmas Store – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, chorus room – 11/20/17, 8:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.; 11/21/17, 8:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M., 5:30 P.M.-8:15 P.M.; 11/22/17, 8:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. – Annual Christmas Store.
2. Rockwood Volleyball Boosters – Rockwood high school gym lobby – 8/31/17, 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. – Boosters meeting.
3. Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school chorus room – 9/19/17, 10/17/17, 11/14/17, 12/19/17, 1/16/18, 2/20/18, 3/20/18, 4/17/18, 5/15/18, 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – Booster meetings.
4. Rockwood Softball Boosters – Rockwood high school athletic fields – 4/21/18, 4/22/18, 7:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. (4/28/18, 4/29/18 rain dates) – Softball tournament.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary athletic fields (elementary, high school gymnasiums in the event of rain) – 9/29/17, 9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M. – Health-A-Thon.
6. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 5/25/18, 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. – Bargain book fair.
7. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, library, cafeteria – 9/15/17, 4/6/18, 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – Family reading night.
8. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 10/16/17 through 10/20/17, 2/26/18 through 3/2/18, 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. – Book Fair.
9. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 10/13/17, 2/23/18, 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – Family fun nights.
10. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 9/12/17, 10/10/17, 11/14/17, 1/9/18, 2/13/18, 3/13/18, 4/10/18, 5/8/18, 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
11. Elementary Student Council – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 11/12/17, 12/3/17, 12/17/17, 1/7/18, 1/21/18, 2/4/18, 2/18/18, 3/4/18, 3/18/18, 6:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M. – Pickleball continuous fundraiser.
12. Pa. Game Commission – Rockwood high school library – 10/24/17, 10/25/17, 3:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. – Hunters safety course.

13. Delta Kappa Gamma – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 10/19/17, 5:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. – Raise funds for books, scholarships, etc.
14. Friends of the Library – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 10/5/17, 10/12/17, 5:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. – raise funds for books, scholarships, etc.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. National Honor Society – Gardner’s Christmas Candy Sale – 11/17/17 through 12/8/17 – Raise funds to facilitate various volunteer activities.
2. 6th Grade Class – Annual Christmas Store – 11/21/17 through 11/22/17 – Raise funds for Washington D.C. trip.
3. Elementary Student Council – Pickleball Fundraiser – 11/12/17 through 3/18/18 – Raise funds for elementary student council.
4. Friends of the Library – Painting Party – 10/5/17 and 10/12/17 – Raise funds for books and an author visit.
5. Class of 2022 – Spirit Wear Fundraising – Month of October – Raise funds for class activities.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mr. Bower discussed the rededication of the rocket that will take place during the upcoming Homecoming and Bonfire activities scheduled for September 29, 2017. He invited all Board members to attend.

Mr. Bower took the Board members on a tour of the elementary gym to show them the recent upgrades.

Mr. Bower thanked Mr. Kush and Fran Brancato for making arrangements and picking up various materials that will be used by Mr. Kush’s class and other areas of the building.

General Board Member Discussion:

The Board approved a contract for Mark Bower, as superintendent of the Rockwood Area School District, with the following terms to be included:

- 5-year term
- Starting salary of \$112,000.00
- \$2,700.00 per year annual increase
- 60% district contribution to individual HSA account
- 37 personal days
- \$150,000.00 life insurance
- Evaluation language as required by state law

Disclaimer: This document is only a summary of the above listed meeting and is not an official copy of the school board meeting minutes.